

Why should we be concerned with wash water disposal?

Wash water from mobile cleaning is NOT just dirt and water. It also may contain soaps, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, oil and grease that are harmful to our creeks and waterways.

Pollutants draining from mobile cleaning activities are washed into the street and into the storm drain system which then flows to our creeks and Bay without any cleaning or filtering.

Federal, State and local regulations **prohibit discharge of anything but rain water in the storm drain.**

Implementing the proper Best Management Practices (BMPs) is easy and is required for compliance with State and local stormwater pollution prevention regulations.



What about biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products?

Cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm wildlife if they

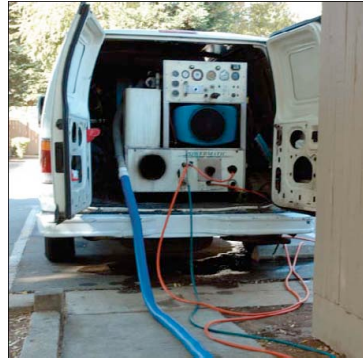


enter a storm drain system. Fish, for example, are affected by both regular soap and biodegradable soap! However, if

disposed of in the sanitary sewer system, wastewater treatment plants prefer biodegradable products over toxic cleaners.

Plan Ahead

- ☐ Determine where you will discharge wastewater before starting a new job.
- ☐ Be sure to have equipment on hand (i.e. long hoses, sump pump, etc) for directing discharge to sanitary sewer access points. Ensure hoses are long enough to reach access points that are far from your holding tank.



Contact your local hardware or construction material stores for available tools and materials for mobile businesses including vacuum pumps, mats, sand or gravel bags, wattles, etc

Options for Wash Water Disposal

Never drain wash water into streets, gutters, parking lots, or storm drains.

- ☐ Wash water can usually be discharged to the sanitary sewer through a drain the property owner's home or business, such as a utility sink, floor drain, mop sink or toilet. Take precautions to prevent debris, hazardous materials or anything that can clog from entering sinks, toilets or sanitary drain.
- ☐ Direct wash water to landscaping or gravel surfaces. Wash water must completely soak into vegetation before you leave the site.

Doing the Job Right Checklist of BMPs

- ☐ Walk the area to identify storm drains.
- ☐ Sweep the wash area to remove debris.
- ☐ If feasible, wash on a vegetated or gravel surface where wash water can infiltrate into the ground without runoff.
- ☐ Contain wash area so that water does not drain down streets and gutters— use sand bag berms, wattles, or bermed mats.
- ☐ Block or seal off any storm drain inlets and sloping areas that release water to the storm gutter to prevent wash water from entering the storm drain.
- ☐ Put storm drain protection in place before starting the washing process and remove before you leave the site.
- ☐ Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trashcan.
- ☐ Minimize water use; use nozzles on hoses.
- ☐ Use less-toxic cleaning products (wash without soaps and solvents, if possible)
- ☐ Use a “wet-vac” to vacuum up the contained wash water for proper disposal.
- ☐ Remove all debris or sediment accumulated during the washing activities.



Three Steps to Remember Before You Clean

1. **Be a BASMAA Recognized Mobile Cleaner** – Take the online “mobile surface cleaning” training from BASMAA (Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association). This program will train you on how to clean different surfaces in an environmentally acceptable way and publish your name as a trained cleaner. Visit www.basmaa.org.
2. **Ask Your Local Inspector**
Contact your local City stormwater inspector to determine specific discharge requirements. Obtain permission to discharge to the property owner’s sanitary sewer plumbing or landscaping before starting the job.
3. **Divert and Collect Wash Water**
Cover the storm drains to prevent wash water from entering and divert wash water to the sanitary sewer system if permitted to do so. Small amounts may be diverted to landscaped areas, if appropriate.

Local Pollution Control Agencies

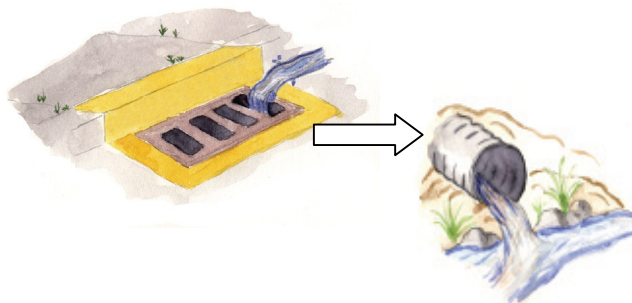
San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant.
(408) 945-3000
Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga

City of Sunnyvale Environmental Services
Department
(408) 730-7270

Regional Water Quality Control Plant (650) 329-2598
Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford

Protect the Bay and Yourself!

When wash water flows into storm drains it goes straight to local creeks and the Bay without any cleaning or filtering.



If you discharge wash water generated by mobile cleaning activities to the storm drain, **you are violating municipal stormwater ordinances and may be subject to a fine.**

For More Information About Stormwater Pollution Prevention

www.myWatershedWatch.org



Santa Clara Valley
Urban Runoff
Pollution Prevention Program

MOBILE BUSINESSES

Best Management Practices



This brochure provides information about using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent polluted water from entering storm drain system

Who should use this brochure?

- Automobile Washers or Detailers
- Power Washers
- Carpet Cleaners
- Steam Cleaners
- Pet Care Services